

## NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the out-of-control defense spending contained in this year's National Defense Authorization Act. At a topline level of \$768.2 billion, this bill is larger than any previous pentagon spending bill. It's even bigger than what the President asked for by \$25 billion.

This excess is particularly egregious when compared to the military spending of our potential adversaries. We spend more on the US military than the next eleven countries combined.

And all this funding is being poured into an agency that is perennially unaccountable to the American public. It has been 30 years since all federal agencies were required to pass audits. And after three decades the Department of Defense (DOD) remains the only agency in the federal government that has so far failed to pass an audit. The most recent prediction from the department for a clean audit is 2028.

Yet we see numerous examples of fraud, waste, and abuse from this department, from legacy weapons systems built for the cold war, to the billions in documented waste in Afghanistan.

The military has rightly identified the climate crisis as one of the biggest and most immediate threats to American lives and interests. And yet the Pentagon still hasn't fully reported on its own greenhouse gas emissions. And every excessive dollar spent on the Pentagon isn't available for the investments we need to make in mitigation and adaptation to protect us and the world from the impacts of climate change.

Especially frustrating to me about this bill is the fact that needed reforms to advance racial justice and combat extremism and white supremacy were excluded in the negotiations that produced this compromise legislation. Our military leaders have been clear about the need to address extremism within the ranks and provide equal justice for Black and Brown servicemen and women. By failing to address these issues adequately in this bill, we don't just let down our men and women in uniform, we let down the country and betray our ideals.

Enough is enough. Americans are demanding that Congress rebalance our priorities and invest in the biggest challenges America faces. We face imminent threats from the COVID pandemic, Climate Change, domestic terrorism, growing economic inequality, and systemic racial and ethnic inequities. It is time to shift our spending priorities to meet these urgent human security priorities. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

HONORING CPT. MITCH PHILLIPS

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of one of Missouri's

finest, Captain Mitch Phillips, who is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service in the Cass County Sheriffs Office.

Cpt. Phillips started his career attending what is now known as the University of Central Missouri. While there, he discovered a call to serve and protect his community and decided to pursue a career in public service. Cpt. Phillips first joined the Garden City Police Department after graduating from the National Police Academy in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Shortly thereafter, Cpt. Phillips became acquainted with the deputies from the Cass County Sheriffs Office and knew that his call to service would lead him there. In August of 1993, Cpt. Phillips joined the Cass County Sheriffs Office as a Patrol Deputy. As a result of his hard work and demonstrated leadership capabilities, Cpt. Phillips quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant in November of 1995.

Cpt. Phillips has held various leadership positions within the Cass County Sheriffs Office and has cultivated an environment that promotes integrity, dedication, and excellence from all his officers. His unwavering, steadfast support for his brothers and sisters in uniform truly represents the values of Missouri.

As any of the men and women that wear the badge can tell you, service does not come without sacrifice. No officer bears the burdens alone. For more than 28 years, Cpt. Phillips put the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Cass County above his own, with the support of his wife, Michele, his three children, who stood beside their husband and father throughout all the hardships that the nature of law enforcement placed before them. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

His life verse, Mathew 7:12, is one we all should abide by—"So in everything, do unto others as you would have them do unto you . . ." Cpt. Phillips embodies all the qualities that make an excellent officer and public servant. Please join me in recognizing and honoring this heroic police officer and his years of self-less service to protecting our community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 401. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 401.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES R. BAIRD**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, on December 8, 2021 my vote was mistakenly recorded as "NO" on H.R. 4996—the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, a bill that I was a proud co-sponsor of, despite my vote being correctly announced as "YES" by my proxy. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call No. 406.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRIS JACOBS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I am recorded as not voting on Roll Call No. 412, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1155—Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. Had I been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 412.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Numbers 436 through 440 on December 9, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 436; NAY on Roll Call No. 437; NAY on Roll Call No. 438; NAY on Roll Call No. 439; and YEA on Roll Call No. 440.

## RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EL COMERCIO DE COLORADO

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of El Comercio de Colorado for receiving 14 national journalism awards granted by the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP).

In my time in Congress, I have been proud to represent the most diverse district in Colorado. With people from all walks of life and over 120,000 immigrants calling our community home, our diversity makes our community a stronger and more vibrant place to live.

As our district's Latino and Hispanic populations have grown, El Comercio de Colorado has offered high-quality Spanish-language content for our community. As the publication has gained recognition, Jesus Sanchez, chief editor of El Comercio de Colorado, has made it his mission to provide our Spanish-speaking community with a publication that provides well-sourced information about what is happening across our district and nation.

The hard work and dedication shown by Jesus and his staff at El Comercio de Colorado has more than paid off as the publication was awarded 14 national journalism awards by the NAHP, including five first place recognitions for Outstanding Entertainment Section, Outstanding Latin American Article, Outstanding Community Photo, Outstanding Cultural Photo Essay, and Outstanding Editorial Audio. These awards truly demonstrate the hard-earned trust El Comercio de Colorado has built within our community.

It goes without saying that the Latino and Hispanic communities in our district play an integral role in making the Sixth District a better